

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A network file system for document images comprising:
identification means adapted for securing identification information representative of an identity of each of a [[user]] plurality of users via an associated thin client interface;
means adapted for receiving request data from each user, via each associated thin client interface, representative of ~~a user~~ each user's request to open a selected data storage location;
testing means adapted for testing received identification information from each of the plurality of users to determine ~~whether the user is~~ approved users privileged to initiate a secure storage operation;
security input means adapted for receiving from ~~[[the]]~~ each approved user security information associated with a selected data storage operation in accordance with an output of the testing means;
secure user input means adapted for receiving, from each approved user, secure identity information corresponding to identification of a subset of peer users selected by each user for allowing access to selected electronic documents, which subset corresponds to received security information;
allocation means adapted for allocating data storage associated with ~~the each~~ selected data storage location, wherein each data storage location is associated with each selecting user;
means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information associatively with ~~[[the]]~~ each selected data storage location;
notification means adapted for notifying each of ~~[[the]]~~ selected subset of users corresponding to each data storage location of the user security information and a location of the selected data storage location;
means adapted for receiving document data comprised of a plurality of discrete electronic documents, each electronic document being representative of a document image;

means adapted for storing each received document data into ~~the selected~~ a data storage location corresponding to each user in a subset thereof;

means adapted for receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and

means adapted for restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information signaling completion of the data storage operation in accordance with the security information.

2. (Original) The network file system of claim 1, further comprising:

login means adapted for receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has been restricted thereto, the login means including means adapted for acquiring the identification information and the security information;

testing means adapted for testing the identification information and the security information against stored security information; and

means adapted for unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing means.

3. (Original) The network file system of claim 2, further comprising:

means adapted for receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage location;

wherein the allocation means includes means adapted for allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the security input means includes means adapted for receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information includes means adapted for storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

wherein the means adapted for storing the identification information and the security information includes means adapted for storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area associatively with the at least one data storage area;

means adapted for receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

means adapted for routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

4. (Original) The network file system of claim 3, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

5. (Original) The network file system of claim 3, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

6. (Original) The network file system of claim 3, wherein the means adapted for receiving document data includes means adapted for receiving document data from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.

7. (Currently amended) A method for storing document images in a network file system comprising:

securing identification information representative of an identity of each of a ~~[[user]]~~plurality of users via an associated thin client interface;

receiving request data from each user, via each associated thin client interface, representative of ~~a user~~ each user's request to open a selected data storage location;

testing received identification information from each of the plurality of users to determine ~~whether the user is~~ approved users privileged to initiate a secure storage operation;

receiving, from the each approved user, security information associated with a selected data storage operation in accordance with an output of the testing;

receiving, from each approved user, secure identity information corresponding to identification of a subset of peer users selected by the user for allowing access to selected electronic documents, which subset corresponds to received security information;

allocating data storage associated with ~~[[the]]~~each selected data storage location, wherein each data storage location is associated with each selecting user;

storing the identification information and the security information associatively with
[[the]]each selected data storage location;

notifying each of the selected subset of users corresponding to each data storage location
of the user security information and a location of the selected data storage location;

receiving document data comprised of a plurality of discrete electronic documents, each
electronic document being representative of a document image;

storing [[the]]each received document data into ~~the selected~~ a data storage location
corresponding to each user in a subset thereof;

receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and

restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information
signaling completion of the data storage operation in accordance with the security information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has
been restricted thereto;

acquiring the identification information and the security information;

testing the identification information and the security information against stored security
information; and

unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage
location;

allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage
area;

storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area
associatively with the at least one data storage area;

receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the received document data is received from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.

Claims 13-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for storing document images in a network file system comprising:

securing identification information representative of an identity of each of a ~~[[user]]~~ plurality of users via an associated thin client interface;

receiving request data from each user, via each associated thin client interface, representative of ~~a user~~ each user's request to open a selected data storage location;

testing received identification information from each of the plurality of users to determine ~~whether the user is~~ approved users privileged to initiate a secure storage operation;

receiving, from ~~[[the]]~~ each approved user, security information associated with a selected data storage operation in accordance with an output of the testing;

receiving, from each approved user, secure identity information corresponding to identification of a subset of peer users selected by the user for allowing access to selected electronic documents, which subset corresponds to received security information;

allocating data storage associated with the selected data storage location, wherein each data storage location is associated with each selecting users;

storing the identification information and the security information associatively with the each selected data storage location;

notifying each of the selected subset of users corresponding to each data storage location of the user security information and a location of the selected data storage location;

receiving document data comprised of a plurality of discrete electronic documents, each electronic document being representative of a document image;

storing [[the]]each received document data into ~~the selected~~ a data storage location corresponding to each user in a subset thereof;

receiving information signaling completion of a data storage operation; and

restricting access to the selected data storage location upon receipt of the information signaling completion of the data storage operation in accordance with the security information.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

receiving from the user a request for access to the data storage location when access has been restricted thereto;

acquiring the identification information and the security information;

testing the identification information and the security information against stored security information; and

unrestricting the selected data storage in accordance with an output of the testing.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving data representative of a user request to open at least one additional data storage location;

allocating data storage associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

receiving security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

storing security information associated with the at least one additional data storage area;

storing information associated with the at least one additional data storage area associatively with the at least one data storage area;

receiving routing data representative as into which data storage area document data is to be routed; and

routing received document data into a selected data storage location in accordance with the routing data.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein each data storage location has unique security information associated therewith.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein each data storage location has common security information associated therewith, wherein each of a plurality of data storage locations are accessible by a user during a single session.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the received document data is received from at least one of an associated scanner, facsimile, local area network and wide area network.